

William Thornton and Tristram Dalton, Commissioners to Thomas Jefferson, August 24, 1801, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Commissioners to Jefferson

Washington 24th. August 1801.

Sir,

We should think an apology necessary for intruding on your retirement, were we not convinced that your solicitude for the advancement of the City authorizes this liberty.

In reviewing the objects you were pleased to recommend to our attention, and calculating what has been done and what is yet to accomplish, we find our means will be inadequate to fulfil the whole of your intentions respecting the Roads within the Estimate. We therefore thought it proper to state what has been executed, and the Expenditures—

For Work executed.

The former Expenses on Pennsylvania Avenue and the Capitol Hill, since the Month of June inclusive Doll. Cent. 2,130.00

The Work on the President's Square & on 15th Street West, gravelled principally, has cost 693.00

The Work on New Jersey Avenue, including a good Road up the Hill & a free-stone Bridge has cost 872.99

Library of Congress

Dolls 3,695.99

For Work to be executed of necessity

The Road between the upper end of Pennsylvania Avenue & the upper Bridge on Rock-Creek has been calculated, and the Work by mensuration, to make an easy Passage, will cost \$800. The people of George Town have taken & will require as much Sand &c as will lessen the Expense \$100. 700.00

Work Contemplated

The circular Road on the West side of the Capitol continued into A Street North & A Street South, also 1st. Street east on the Capitol Square, between the two above mentioned Streets, but particularly A Street North, now commenced, and 1st. Street east in front of Mr. Carrolls Buildings

To round Pennsylvania Avenue from the President's Square to 26th. Street west, ready to receive the Gravel.

To continue from the new Bridge down New Jersey Avenue, rounding it so as to receive the Gravel.

These last objects are unprovided for, and as we cannot execute the whole, we solicit your determination respecting the choice, should we be able to expend a few hundred Dollars more than the Sum calculated.

We have the satisfaction of informing you that the Brick Work of the Chamber of Representatives advanced with such rapidity that the whole will be finished ready for the Roof by the end of next week, and the Roof is in forwardness. Previous to the departure of our Colleauge Mr. White, for Winchester some Days ago, he joined in our opinion respecting the propriety of making this Statement as soon as the proper Returns were

Library of Congress

collected. We have the honor &c.

W. Thornton

T. Dalton

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED-STATES.

[Pp. 97–9, COMMISSIONERS' LETTERBOOK, Vol. 6, 1800–02, in the National Archives.]